



CITRUS ABANDONED ACRES

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Abandoned Acreage Down 3 Percent

Abandoned citrus groves were identified during the latest commercial citrus tree inventory. Agricultural personnel evaluated tree condition and made an overall assessment of citrus groves contained in the maps of Florida citrus growing areas. The amount of abandoned citrus acreage is updated and published on an annual basis to keep pace with constant changes. Some citrus groves previously identified as abandoned have been removed and destroyed. Additional groves are added each year when they meet the abandoned grove criteria.

A grove is considered abandoned when the following conditions exist: no production care during the past 2 years, no weed control or grass mowing, livestock present, weather damage, neglected trees that are not economically feasible to maintain, or no commercial harvest during the last 2 seasons. In some cases, property owners or caretakers were contacted regarding future use of their groves.

All five production areas showed decreases in abandoned acres. Of the 29 counties surveyed, 6 showed increases, 3 had no change, and 20 showed decreases in total abandoned acreage. The Indian River production area leads with 38 percent of the state's total abandoned acreage while the Western area has the least at 10 percent. By county, the greatest decrease of abandoned acres is 1,290 or 45 percent of the previously reported total in Okeechobee County. The greatest percentage of increase is in Collier County where the abandoned acres have more than doubled. Results of this survey include 5,569 understory acres comprised of pine stands and forested areas with abandoned, unintentional, or feral citrus trees scattered under their canopy. These acres pose a potential threat as a possible source of pests and diseases.

Citrus Abandoned Acreage by County and Survey Year – Florida: 2011 – 2013

County	Parcels			Abandoned								
				Grove			Understory			Total		
	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Brevard	581	581	565	5,166	5,186	4,585	70	70	70	5,236	5,257	4,655
Charlotte	179	177	175	2,431	2,378	2,297	-	-	-	2,431	2,378	2,297
Collier	17	19	31	256	286	662	-	-	-	256	286	662
DeSoto	364	363	339	3,393	3,305	3,112	-	-	-	3,393	3,305	3,112
Glades	48	47	38	809	800	675	-	-	-	809	800	675
Hardee	384	373	362	2,844	2,906	2,858	-	-	-	2,844	2,906	2,858
Hendry	357	333	377	8,809	7,882	8,449	37	37	37	8,846	7,919	8,486
Hernando	55	57	57	938	944	941	37	37	37	975	981	978
Highlands	206	232	232	2,540	3,240	3,240	-	-	-	2,540	3,240	3,240
Hillsborough	580	548	487	4,815	4,308	3,664	-	-	-	4,815	4,308	3,664
Indian River	734	743	781	12,118	12,130	12,307	124	124	124	12,242	12,254	12,431
Lake	946	1,001	1,033	9,911	10,582	10,766	2,727	2,727	2,730	12,638	13,309	13,497
Lee	101	97	93	796	767	736	-	-	-	796	767	736
Manatee	324	312	308	3,232	3,212	3,139	-	-	-	3,232	3,212	3,139
Marion	58	68	67	317	244	205	573	691	691	890	935	896
Martin	586	559	554	17,368	17,127	16,495	-	-	-	17,368	17,127	16,495
Okeechobee	145	156	105	2,674	2,858	1,568	-	-	-	2,674	2,858	1,568
Orange	291	285	261	3,245	3,026	2,420	320	360	486	3,565	3,386	2,906
Osceola	347	335	337	2,930	2,852	2,836	-	-	-	2,930	2,852	2,836
Pasco	219	208	207	1,963	1,805	1,680	332	343	465	2,295	2,148	2,145
Polk	1,176	1,087	1,063	9,339	8,652	8,436	410	410	410	9,749	9,062	8,846
Putnam	15	16	16	85	93	93	-	-	-	85	93	93
St. Lucie	1,050	1,146	1,134	26,685	28,519	28,145	548	548	322	27,233	29,067	28,467
Sarasota	18	17	18	131	130	131	-	-	-	131	130	131
Seminole	77	75	60	440	401	309	8	8	8	447	409	316
Volusia	193	199	198	1,675	1,684	1,676	112	112	112	1,787	1,796	1,788
Others ¹	208	180	180	6,236	5,632	5,554	90	76	76	6,326	5,630	5,630
Total	9,259	9,214	9,078	131,146	130,949	126,978	5,388	5,542	5,569	136,534	136,533	132,547

- Represents zero.

¹ Alachua (in 2011), Citrus, Palm Beach, and Pinellas counties.

Citrus Abandoned Acreage by Production Area and Survey Year – Florida: 2011 – 2013

Production Area	Parcels			Abandoned								
				Grove			Understory			Total		
	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Indian River	2,621	2,730	2,756	49,874	51,352	50,372	784	784	558	50,658	52,136	50,930
Northern Area	1,820	1,838	1,823	18,191	18,238	17,521	4,087	4,241	4,494	22,277	22,521	22,015
Central Area	1,764	1,689	1,667	16,064	16,035	15,803	480	480	480	16,544	16,515	16,283
Western Area	1,672	1,616	1,517	14,414	13,876	12,920	-	-	-	14,414	13,876	12,920
Southern Area	1,382	1,341	1,315	32,603	31,448	30,362	37	37	37	32,640	31,485	30,399
Total	9,259	9,214	9,078	131,146	130,949	126,978	5,388	5,542	5,569	136,534	136,533	132,547

- Represents zero.

